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Thank you Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, Representative Fleishman and members of the Education Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) in opposition to:

HB 5452

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON LIFE –
THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS***

ASNC opposes Sections 3-6 for the same reasons as opposition to:

HB 5341

***AN ACT PROVIDING IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS
WHO MAY ADMINISTER MEDICATIONS TO A STUDENT***

Testimony in opposition to HB 5452 and HB 5341 has already been submitted by ASNC and is on record. ASNC would like to propose: training of bus drivers in the administration of epinephrine cartridge injectors and CPR be added to existing training requirements as outlined in Section 14-276a of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Sec 14-276a page 1 (5-97) describes training requirements for school bus drivers prior to hire and ongoing during the course of employment. This training already includes use of a first aid kit in the school bus, emergency procedures, first aid administration, and Universal Precautions. The additional training of CPR and Epinephrine cartridge injectors will provide protection to students with life threatening allergies while traveling on school buses.

In addition, ASNC would like to propose that such students should be allowed to carry their own epinephrine cartridge injectors for self- administration. Students who may not be able to self-administer should be allowed to carry their own epinephrine cartridge injectors for use by trained personnel.

ASNC continues to oppose school nurse supervision of bus drivers and therefore requests that the proposed language in HB 5452 and HB 5341 be eliminated. ASNC would consider the proposed changes to the language as outlined above.

ASNC realizes the tremendous fears and concerns of parents of children with life threatening allergies that ride on a school bus. ASNC is willing to enter into the development of a plan to address the concerns related to epinephrine cartridge administration on school buses. However, the requirements of HB 5452 and HB 5341 must be clarified before any legislation is finalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to HB 5452 and HB 5341.

Respectfully submitted,

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President of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut